

Boston. One hundred years later, a resolution extending an apology on behalf of the United States to Native Hawaiians for the illegal overthrow of the Native Hawaiian government and calling for a reconciliation of the relationship between the United States and Native Hawaiians was enacted into law.

This measure continues the reconciliation process by establishing a procedure through which a Native Hawaiian governing entity could achieve federal recognition if it chooses to do so. This recognition would extend the policy of self-governance and self-determination currently extended to American Indians and Alaska Natives. It also protects existing Native Hawaiian programs and begins to address the claims of the Native Hawaiian people. This bill does not authorize Native Hawaiians to conduct gaming.

This legislation is critical to the future of the State of Hawaii. Most importantly, Native Hawaiians deserve the right to decide their future and chart their own destiny. It is time their inherent rights are restored.

I urge my colleagues to resolve these long-standing issues with the Native Hawaiians and support this legislation.

RIM OF THE VALLEY CORRIDOR STUDY ACT

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 25, 2005

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to re-introduce the Rim of the Valley Corridor Study Act, directing the Secretary of the Interior to study the feasibility of expanding the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area to include the mountains and canyons in Southern California that are part of the Rim of the Valley Corridor, as designated by the State of California.

The Interior Department study would examine the suitability of expanding the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area to include this corridor, which contains areas of rare Mediterranean ecosystems and encircles the mountains above the San Fernando, La Crescenta, Santa Clarita, Simi, and Conejo Valleys, as well as the famed Arroyo Seco, home of Pasadena's Rose Bowl.

For millions of Southern Californians, the mountains that rise above our communities are a haven from the noise and commotion of Los Angeles. Our mountains can and should be places where city-dwellers can enjoy such activities as hiking, camping, mountain biking, horseback riding, observing wildlife, and admiring nature's scenic beauty. Given the tremendous growth pressures in Southern California, we must act now to preserve our precious open space. It is my hope that the Rim of the Valley Corridor Study Act will embody a dream and vision of a Southern California enhanced not only by what we have built, but also by what we have preserved.

The National Park Service oversees the highly successful Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, the world's largest urban park, spanning from the mountains to the sea and protected in perpetuity by Congress in 1978. Inclusion of the Rim of the Valley Corridor would link wildlife habitat in the Santa Monica Mountains to the Angeles National Forest.

The Rim of the Valley Corridor Study Act would require the Interior Department to complete its study within 1 to 3 years, consulting with State and local government entities, as well as other interested parties, including private property holders. It would then be necessary for Congress to enact subsequent legislation to implement the study's recommendations.

Last year, I was pleased to work with my colleague, Representative RICHARD POMBO, the Chairman of the Committee on Resources, on this bill, which passed the Senate. I am grateful to Chairman POMBO and to the other Members and staff of the Committee who worked to report the bill favorably to the full House. Unfortunately, in the press of business at the end of the last Congress there was no time to consider the bill on the floor.

I am pleased that this legislation has the bipartisan support of Representatives DAVID DREIER, GEORGE MILLER and BRAD SHERMAN as principal cosponsors. I am delighted that the senior Senator from California, Senator FEINSTEIN, is also introducing this important legislation today.

The Rim of the Valley Corridor Study Act will result in an initiative creating a lasting legacy of nearby natural open space for our children—and their children—to enjoy.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES T.
McLAWHORN, JR.

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 25, 2005

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay a very special tribute to a true community leader, Mr. James T. McLawhorn, Jr. It is my honor to recognize the significant contributions that he has made to the City of Columbia and the State of South Carolina.

The son of James T. McLawhorn, Sr. and Allily McLawhorn, "J.T." was born on April 21, 1947, in Greenville, North Carolina. Mr. McLawhorn is a graduate of North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, where he received his degree in Political Science. He also sought higher degrees, attaining a Master's in Regional Planning from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a Master's in Business Administration from the University of Miami Coral Gables.

On Thursday, January 27, 2005, Mr. McLawhorn celebrates 25 years of dedicated service as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Columbia, South Carolina Urban League. The Columbia Urban League is a non-profit, non-partisan, interracial organization serving African Americans and economically disadvantaged individuals and families.

Mr. McLawhorn's leadership has been visionary in implementing new programs that have had a tremendous impact throughout South Carolina. In 1985, he founded the National Black Family Summit, a premier action forum on family issues, with an emphasis on the African American community. Annual meetings of the Summit have brought together more than 1,300 participants to develop strategies for family empowerment.

His deeply felt commitment to initiating positive change in the African American community has resulted in the publishing of an annual

report entitled *The State of Black South Carolina: An Action Agenda for the Future* that is a widely recognized publication. The publication serves as a blueprint for identifying and addressing public policy issues that are critical to improving the quality of life for all South Carolinians. The publication is penned by area professionals, used as reference material in area libraries, and serves as a teaching supplement in educational institutions throughout the state. It was an honor for me to be one of the contributors to this publication in past years.

It is also in Mr. McLawhorn's nature to stand up for what he believes, and that dedication led him to serve as one of the chief planners of "King Day at the Dome," held on the third Monday. A few years ago that historic event was one of the largest civil rights demonstrations in the history of South Carolina, bringing more than 60,000 people to downtown Columbia to protest the flying of the Confederate battle flag atop the South Carolina State House. In part, because of the public outcry witnessed at "King Day at the Dome," the flag was removed from any position of sovereignty.

Mr. McLawhorn is also actively involved in empowering today's youth so they may be meaningful community contributors as adults. Under his direction, the Columbia Urban League and the South Carolina Department of Social Services have teamed up to administer "creative and dynamic programs" that help young people around the state. The Youth Leadership Development Institute is one example in which high school students are placed in work settings for five weeks during the summer and participate in academic, social and cultural enrichment activities. I have had the opportunity to host several of the program's students in my office, and I have seen the benefit they derive from experiencing the challenges and rewards of the working world.

Dedicated to the empowerment of African Americans, Mr. McLawhorn has received many prestigious awards on both the state and national levels. Former Governors Carroll Campbell and David Beasley presented him with the prestigious Order of the Palmetto. The Order of the Palmetto is the highest award given to any civilian in the state. It recognizes the significant accomplishments of notable South Carolinians. The National Urban League recently voted him President of the Decade for his unwavering commitment. Mr. McLawhorn was also recently awarded the 2004 TEC Champion Leadership Award for his foresight in bringing the DigiPen Summer Video Game Programming Workshop to the Midlands. He and the Columbia Urban League have also received the Whitney M. Young Jr. Race Relations Award. To add to his staggering list of accomplishments, he was an invited participant to the Joint Civilian Orientation Conference by the United States Secretary of Defense.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in applauding Mr. James T. McLawhorn for his many achievements. I congratulate him on his quarter century of service and commend him for his significant efforts to improve the quality of life for all South Carolinians.